

REMARKS

1. Summary of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed October 15, 2004, a Legal Instruments Examiner indicated that the amendment filed on July 28, 2004 is considered non-compliant because it has failed to meet the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.121. In particular, the listing of claims does not include the text of all pending claims, and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified. The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment indicates that only the corrected section of the non-compliant amendment document must be resubmitted.

2. Amendments and Pending Claims

The Applicants submit a corrected version of the listing of claims in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. In a telephonic interview with the Examiner (Mr. Steven Blount) on November 12, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the corrected listing of claims should list (i) any new claim amendments not shown in the amendment filed on July 28, 2004 that are desired by the Applicants, and (ii) any claim amendments submitted in the amendment filed on July 28, 2004 that are still desired by the Applicants. In the corrected listing of claims, the Applicants have amended claims 1-6, 8, 11-13, 18-21, and 26-28, and have cancelled claims 9-10, 15-17, and 24-25. Now pending in this application are claims 1-8, 11-14, 18-23, and 26-29 of which claims 1 and 18 are independent. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner ignore the listing of claims submitted with the Office Action response filed on July 28, 2004 but rather use the corrected listing of claims when reconsidering this case.

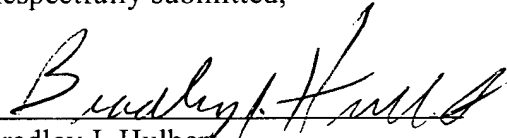
3. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8, 11-14, 18-23, and 26-29 are now in a condition for allowance, and respectfully request favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner would like to discuss this case, the Examiner is welcomed to contact the undersigned at (312) 913-2122.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 12, 2004

By:


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